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RENT IN THE CURTAIN

Especially significant at this time is the dispatch which tells us that 65,000 Russian language copies of the Bible have been smuggled into the Soviet Union.

So is the news from Vienna, where an Italian woman delegate has temporarily disrupted a Communist-sponsored "peace" congress by openly questioning the peaceful intentions of the Kremlin.

These incidents are important because they remind us that the Iron Curtain is far from ironclad. It cannot be. Russia, China and the satellites have land and sea frontier totaling some 20,000 miles, four-fifths of the earth's diameter, not counting the approaches by air and the air waves.

The coming Republican Administration is committed to a more positive policy than its predecessor in the hope of taking advantage of rifts in that curtain.

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What avenues of approach can be followed with the aim of reaching Russian, Chinese and satellite peoples over the heads of their leaders?

To begin with, there are the air waves. The Voice of America claims 80 percent of the listening audience in the satellite countries, and, despite the jamming, gets through to Moscow 30 percent of the time. Here is a field that can be further exploited.

If a lone woman can speak up for the West at a "peace" conference, others can do likewise. News of the incident will not appear in the Communist press, which possesses a monopoly, but word of it will get around.

When the Russians call an economic conference at Moscow, it may not be a bad idea for some American businessmen to attend, if only to make clear the insincerity of Communist trade offers.

And where Bibles can go, leaflets can go and also small arms—or small, though effective, sabotage equipment. It might well often be well to think twice before sending these

Then there is the matter of espionage—a regrettable necessity for any great nation in the present state of the world.

Up to a few years ago the United States had never maintained an international spy service in peacetime. In two world wars, despite much brilliant work by its own citizens, this country had to rely heavily on its allies.

In the Central Intelligence Agency we see the beginning of such a system. Significant is the fact that its head is Gen Walter Bedell Smith, who was Gen Eisenhower's chief of staff in Europe and then Ambassador to Moscow.

Gen Smith's right-hand man is Allan Dulles, brother of the next Secretary of State. Allan Dulles made a brilliant record in World War II by establishing and maintaining contact with Hitler's opponents inside Germany.

Here is a combination that should link psychological warfare and intelligence in such a way as to promote the foreign policy of this country.

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What can they hope to accomplish?

It should be noted at the start that the very immensity which facilitates penetration of Communist territory makes it exceedingly difficult to saturate. This fact calls for concentration on key spots.

There will be difficulty in convincing peoples behind the Iron Curtain of our peaceful intentions toward them. To organize rebellions, or even resistance movements, among them would only lead to fruitless bloodshed in Europe, though it conceivably might be productive of some advantage in Asia.

With regard to espionage, let us give it a chance by guarding our tongues. It should not be necessary for Gen Smith to destroy the usefulness of men on dangerous missions for the United States by being compelled to defend them publicly against charges of associating with Communists.

Though psychological warfare and espionage are valuable weapons, neither, by itself, has ever felled a vigorous dictatorship. They can only exploit internal stresses, which are felt by leaders as well as peoples.

In some such emergency as, say, the death of Stalin, they might assist greatly in creating a situation favorable to peace. That is the hope.

UNCLE DUDLEY.

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